

Purpose

Locking Through the Large Lock

Locking through the large locks

Traveling through the large lock is similar to the small lock, but there are several things to consider to increase your safety during the lockage.

- The large lock does not have floating mooring bits to attach to. This requires your crew to tend the lines. As the vessel moves up or down, your crew will have to pay out or take up lines smoothly and steadily with no slack. (Do not secure your lines with a half hitch.)
- A larger number of vessels can be in the lock at one time. You must be prepared and alert and pay attention to the lock attendant's instructions.
- Use caution with vessels of different sizes. You will be locking with larger or smaller sized vessels. Larger vessels have much less maneuverability than smaller ones. Smaller vessels can be adversely affected by waves or turbulence.

When heading west in this lock, wait at the upstream timber guide pier, behind the traffic light. When heading east, wait at the waiting pier near the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge. Watch the traffic lights and listen for instructions over the public address system directing you to enter the lock. If you draw more than 14 feet (4.27 m), signal the Lockmaster so that the

saltwater barrier can be lowered. Signal with one long and two short blasts. When the flashing yellow light goes out, the saltwater barrier will be in the lowered position. When you receive the green light, enter the lock SLOWLY--at less than 2-1/2 knots. It is your responsibility to leave no wake that might disrupt another vessel. Watch the lock attendant for directions for mooring. Pass the loop end of your line to the lock attendant. If the distance is too great, the attendant will throw you the end of a line. Use a slip knot to secure your mooring line to the attendant's line and allow the attendant to pull your line up. The attendant will secure your line to the mooring button on the lock wall. The boater's end of the line should be held by a half figure-eight so that you can pay out or take up line smoothly. Handle your bow line the same as the stern line. As the chamber is filling or emptying, pay attention to the movement of your vessel and pay out or take up line smoothly and steadily, allowing no slack in the lines. After the chamber has filled, keep your lines secured to the cleats while the gates are being opened. Do not secure your line with a half hitch or under a knot. You may not be able to release it in case of an emergency. When the lockage is complete, wait for the lock attendant's instructions before releasing the lines. Move ahead SLOWLY--at less than 2-1/2 knots--until clear of the locks. Please use caution and leave no wake that will interfere with other vessels.

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